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How Remark Led American to the Story

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The inside story of the role American flyers played in the ill-fated Cuba invasion of 1961 was ferreted out by CHICAGO'S AMERICAN following a remark by a Chicago industrialist.

The industrialist told an editor of this newspaper that a friend, an American Legion official in Wisconsin, had told him that "the American general who was to have supplied the Bay of Pigs air cover" retired recently from the air force and was living in Oklahoma City.

A reporter was assigned to the story and located the

general—Maj. Gen. David W. Hutchinson, supervising operations in an oil field.

Asked about the part he played in the Cuban invasion, Gen. Hutchinson said:

"I was commander of the Ninth air force, but except for being consulted as an adviser on occasion, I had no part in the Cuban operation."

Identifies Air Chief

Then, significantly, he added:

"The man you want to talk to is Gen. Doster of the Alabama air guard. He was in charge of tactical air operations. He'll talk to you if he can."

It was the first time in all the millions of words of discussion on the Bay of Pigs fiasco that an American general had been specifically identified as "in charge" of any portion of the operation.

The reporter immediately called Gen. Doster — Brig. Gen. G. Reid Doster — in Birmingham.

General Couldn't Comment

Gen. Doster said he could not comment on his alleged role in the Bay of Pigs operation, but asserted:

"You might care to talk to a man who claims he was there — a newspaper editor who says he was one of the

pilots, Buck Persons. He's right in town here."

The reporter put in a call to Albert B. Persons, managing editor of the Birmingham Examiner, a weekly publication.

More Revealing Article

Persons expressed amazement at the identification of Gen. Doster as a key figure in the Bay of Pigs operation and said:

"This revelation, by an obviously knowledgeable source [Gen. Hutchinson], puts an entirely different light on the situation. I feel free now to detail facts that I hesitated to print before."

Persons said he already had written one long article

about the invasion, and the part American airmen played in it, but that the new information would enable him to write another, even more revealing one.

He agreed to allow CHICAGO'S AMERICAN to print them.

CHICAGO'S AMERICAN informed both the department of defense and the CIA [central intelligence agency] in Washington of the allegations made in Persons' stories, plus the identification of Gen. Doster as commander of tactical air operations.

The DOD and the CIA said they had no comment to make.



GEN. G. REID DOSTER